

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANAA 01326 311453Z

44

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 /016 W
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R 311350Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY SANAA
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5615

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STADIS////////////////////////////////////

BEIRUT FOR RSS

DEPT FOR A/SY/FO

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: WEAPONS FOR YARG SECURITY PERSONNEL

REF: A) BEIRUT 6775 B) SANA 1261 C) STATE 119638
D) SANA 121-

1. AS STATED REF A AND AS RESULT OUR DISCUSSIONS DURING YOUR
LAST VISIT, ISSUE OF EQUIPPING LOCAL-HIRE GUARDS HAS LONG BEEN
DEAD. THIS WAS NOT SUBJECT OF REFF B OR D, NOR WAS INTERNAL
SECURITY OF EMBASSY CHANCERY WHICH, AS NOTED REF A, IS THE PROPER
PROVINCE OF MARINES.

2. PERSONNEL MENTIONED IN REFS B AND D ARE EXCLUSIVELY HOST
GOVERNMENT TROOPS PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED TO US MISSION BY THE YARG
CENTRAL SECURITY.

3. REQUEST MADE REF B WAS FULLY DISCUSSED WITH DCM AND AMBASSADOR
AND IS ATTEMPT TO CONFORM TO EXPLICIT SY/FO GUIDANCE (REF C)
REGARDING DESIRABILITY OF SHORTER RANGE WEAPONS (SHOTGUN)
AROUND COMPOUND AREA. ISSUE OF INITIALLY ARMING ANYONE IS
NOT INVOLVED AS THESE TROOPS ALREADY CARRY ANTIQUATED RIFLES

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OF VARYING TYPES AND CALIBERS, ISSUED TO THEM BY THEIR UNIT.

THESE RIFLES USE HIGH PENETRATION MILITARY AMMO.
MY OBJECTIVE IN THIS CASE IS TO IMPROVE STOPPING CAPABILITY
WHILE LIMITING RANGE.

4. OUR EMBASSY-HIRED (LOCAL) GUARDS ARE NOT NOW AND NEVER HAVE
BEEN ARMED WITH ANYTHING OTHER THAN CEREMONIAL JAMBIAS
(CURVED DAGGERS) CARRIED BY ALL YEMENIS. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT
THESE EMPLOYEES CANNOT BE CONSIDERED RELIABLE IN THE VENNT OF
SERIOUS TROUBLE. HOWEVER, THIS DOES NOT NECESSARILY APPLY TO
YARG TROOPS PRESENTLY AT COMPOUND WHO WOULD CONSTITUTE
INITIAL HOST-GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO RIOTERS OR SNIPERS
UNTIL THEIR UNIT REINFORCED THEM. DCM ALSO NOTES THAT, IN
JUNE 1967, ENERGETIC RESPONSE BY SUCH TROOPS MAINTAINED
INTEGRITY OF COMPOUND EVEN THOUGH RIOTERS WERE COMING OVER
THE WALLS.
SCOTES

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